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DATE: 10 June 1983

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Soviet Troops in Cuba

An ABC report last night, citing US intelligence sources, stated that the Soviets have sent some 3,200 men to Cuba since April, more than doubling the number of Soviet combat troops on the island.

We estimate that the total number of Soviet military personnel in Cuba has gradually increased from some 6,000 to more than 7,500 over the past two years:

- The camp which supports the semiannual rotation of Soviet troops to Cuba has been expanded during that time.
- Only a few hundred of the additional personnel have been added to the Soviet motorized rifle brigade--the only Soviet combat unit in Cuba--raising its manning level to as many as 2,900 men.
- Most of the increase probably has been in the Soviet advisory group.

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Our estimate is probably most firm on the strength of the brigade:

- It is a military unit with a distinct organizational structure and signature equipment.
- Some new vehicle and ammunition storage sheds are being constructed at brigade installations, suggesting that it is undergoing a modernization program similar to that observed in Soviet units elsewhere over the past few years.

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-- Nonetheless, increased arms shipments to Cuba and growing Soviet assistance in improving Cuba's air defenses suggest an increase in the advisory presence.

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